

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 2, 2009

The Honorable John Murtha  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-149, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable C. W. Bill Young  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Murtha and Ranking Member Young,

This year, 200,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 30,000 men will die from the disease. Prostate cancer is the most diagnosed non-skin cancer in the United States and the most commonly diagnosed cancer in men. More recently, health experts have noted an increase of prostate cancer among our nation's veterans who were exposed to defoliants. We write to ask the Subcommittee to provide \$125 million in FY 2010 for the Department of Defense (DOD) Peer-Reviewed Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP).

Since 1996, the Committee has been instrumental in advancing prostate cancer research by funding the DOD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program for prostate cancer. The DOD has a long history of performing medical research studies and because of its administrative structure has demonstrated an ability to be flexible and quickly adjust responses to changing needs and priorities. The PCRP is the gold standard in prostate cancer research and an integral warrior in the national fight against prostate cancer.

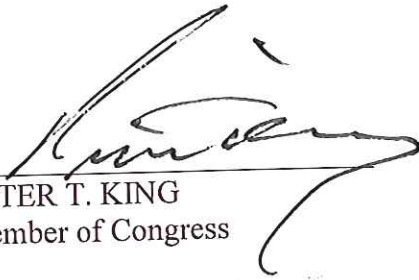
Federal funding for prostate cancer research has accounted for, on average, only 5 percent of our nation's annual cancer research budget while prostate cancer is responsible for about 15 percent of all cancer cases and about 15 percent of cancer deaths in men. The federal effort falls short of what is needed to save American lives.

For years, the program has advanced research with increasing efficiency. After 8 years of virtually flat funding, however, the program is unable to maintain consistent clinical trial studies and will be unable to help bring critical treatments to the men and their families who are fighting this disease daily. As you work on the FY 2010 defense appropriations bill, we strongly urge increased federal funding for prostate cancer research in order to wage an effective fight against this devastating disease.

We request a FY 2010 appropriation of \$125 million for the Peer-Reviewed Prostate Cancer Research Program at DOD to enable the program to maintain current levels of research, expand into innovative areas of study and conduct important clinical trials that will help to bring important research from the laboratory to the bedside.

Please join us in making prostate cancer research, awareness and early detection a national health care priority by ensuring that adequate resources are available for the DOD PCRP. We recognize the difficult task ahead of your subcommittee in setting priorities among the many needs of our nation, but we sincerely appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



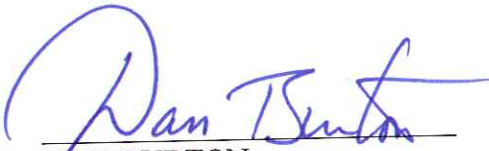
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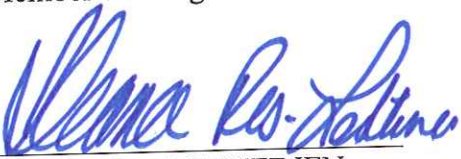
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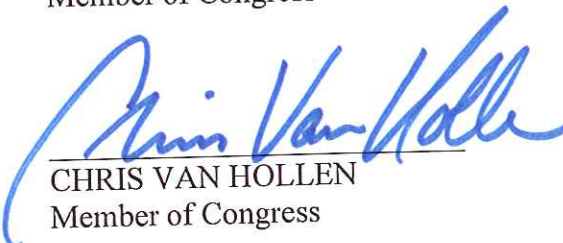
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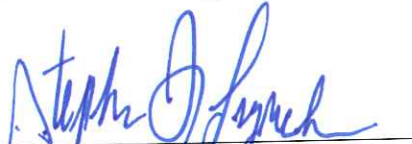
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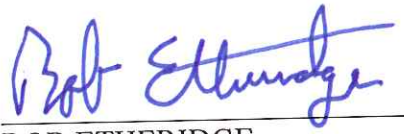
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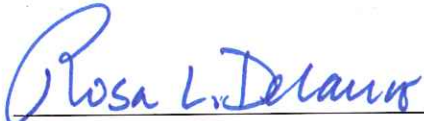
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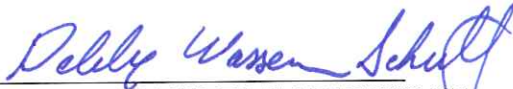
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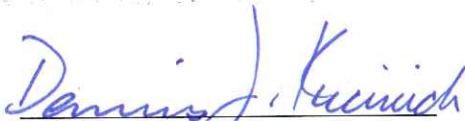
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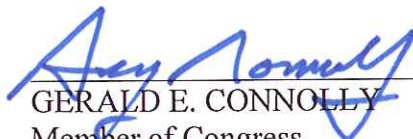
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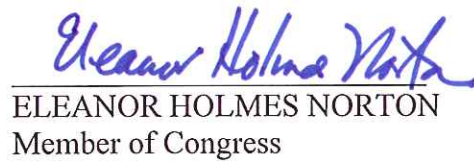
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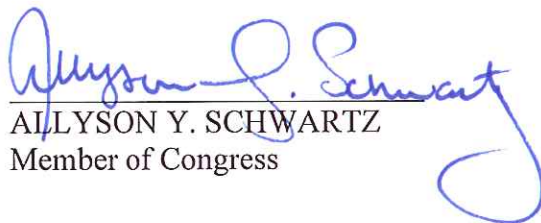
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